

Media Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5/22/2019



PIAA to Host Special Olympics Interscholastic Unified Track & Field Championship at Shippensburg University May 24 & 25

WHAT: Pennsylvania High School students, with and without intellectual disabilities, will participate in the Special Olympics PA Interscholastic Unified Track and Field Championships with the goal of promoting inclusion and acceptance. The Unified Track and Field Championship will be held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Track and Field Championships. Each Unified Track and Field team is comprised of co-ed members and consists of a proportional number of students both with and without intellectual disabilities. During the Championship, the teams will compete in one of three divisions and be grouped with members of similar abilities to participate in shot put, mini javelin, running long jump, 4 x 100 Unified Relay, and 100, 400, and 800 meter events. The team that accumulates the highest number of points after all of the events have been completed will finish in first place.

WHO: The athletic competitions will involve students from the following high schools and counties: **George Washington**/Philadelphia, **Allerdice**/Pittsburgh, **Fox Chapel**/Allegheny County, **Red Lion**/York County, **Penridge**/Bucks County, **Carbondale Area**/Lackawanna County, **Souderton**/Montgomery County, and **General McLane**/Erie County. All participants are a part of the Special Olympics Pennsylvania [Unified Champion Schools](#) program.

WHERE/WHEN:

SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY – Seth Grove Stadium, 132 Stadium Access Rd, Shippensburg, PA
FRIDAY, MAY 24TH:

- 2:30: Competition held in shot put, mini javelin, and running long jump

SATURDAY, MAY 25TH:

- 10:30 am – 2:15 pm: Competition held in the 4 x 100 Unified Relay, 100, 400, and 800 meters
- 3:15 pm: Awards presented to teams by PIAA Executive Director Dr. Lombardi (gold, silver, and bronze medals presented based on total team points earned)

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About Interscholastic Unified Sports® (IUS) and Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA)

Special Olympics Pennsylvania Interscholastic Unified Sports® (IUS) is a fully-inclusive co-ed high school sports program that brings together a proportional number of students with and without disabilities on teams for training and competition. Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. For more information about how you can join the "Inclusion Revolution," visit our web site at www.specialolympicspa.org.

About Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA)

Beginning in Pittsburgh, on December 29, 1913, PIAA was given the privilege of serving its member schools and registered officials by establishing policies and adopting contest rules that emphasize the educational values of interscholastic athletics, promote safe and sportsmanlike competition and provide uniform standards for all interscholastic levels of competition.

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